

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

# Vampire Hunter D

6

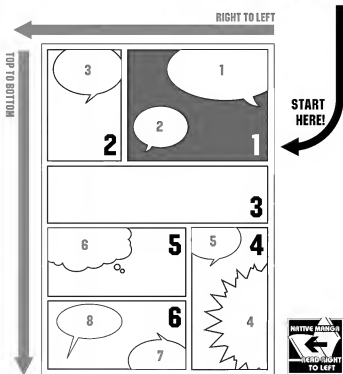
ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAIKO TAKAKI

DMP

DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING

# THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL IS READ IN ITS NATIVE FORMAT

READ EACH PANEL  
FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM  
SEE HOW IT'S DONE BELOW!





# HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S Vampire Hunter D

## Volume 6

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY  
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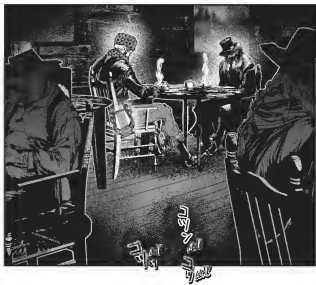
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WHAT'S  
YOUR  
BUSINESS  
WITH  
US?

THAT OLD  
LADY'S  
LOOKING  
TO START  
A FIGHT  
WITH BINGO  
AND CLAY,  
THE  
BULLOW  
BROTHERS!



YOU MAY BE THE  
BIGGEST HOTSHOTS IN  
THE OUTER FRONTIER,  
BUT THAT DON'T  
MEAN YOU SHOULDN'T  
STILL SHOW PROPER  
RESPECT TO YOUR  
ELDERS.  
DON'T YOU AGREE?



AND I  
WANT  
YOU TWO  
TO COME  
WITH ME.

I'M  
HEADING  
ACROSS THE  
DESERT TO  
THE INNER  
FRONTIER  
TOMORROW.



AS SUCH,  
I'M NOT  
ABLE TO  
GREET  
YOU WITH  
THE  
PROPER  
RESPECT  
...

YOU'LL  
HAVE TO  
PARDON ME,  
MAMAM, BUT  
I'M IN THE  
MIDDLE OF  
SLEEP.

NO,  
SHE'S NOT  
EXACTLY  
UNKNOWN.

HEY, BRO -  
THIS OLD HAG  
WE DON'T EVEN  
KNOW WANTS US  
TO ACCOMPANY  
HER ON A TRIP  
ACROSS THE  
DESERT.



YOU'D BE  
ESCORTING  
ME AND  
ONE OTHER  
PERSON.

SO WHAT'S  
YOUR  
ANSWER  
GONNA BE?  
I'LL PAY  
HAND-  
SOMELY.



...GRANNY  
VIPER,  
"THE  
PEOPLE  
FINDER."

EH, I  
COULDN'T  
CARE LESS  
ABOUT  
GREETINGS.













I AM  
THORNTON

YOU'RE  
RIGHT  
ON TIME...

...VAMPIRE  
HUNTER  
D.

THE MAN  
WHO SENT  
YOU THE  
LETTER.



I LIKE  
HIM!

I LIKE  
HIS  
STYLE!  
INDEED,  
I DO!



I WOULD  
LIKE YOU  
TO CROSS  
THE  
DESERT.

-BE-  
CAUSE  
THAT...



...IS THE  
REQUEST OF  
A CERTAIN  
INDIVIDUAL IN  
WHOM YOU  
HAVE GREAT  
INTEREST.





BEG  
PARDON



I WAS GONNA  
HIRE THOSE  
TWO AT FIRST,  
BUT NOW I'VE  
CHANGED MY  
MIND.

I  
CHOOSE  
YOU  
INSTEAD!

I MEAN,  
WHO'D HAVE  
THOUGHT A  
MAN EXISTED  
THAT DARED  
COMPLETELY  
SNUB THE  
BULLOW  
BROTHERS?



NOW, I'D  
HEARD OF YOU,  
BUT I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
YOU'D BE THIS  
AMAZING!

COURSE  
YOU'RE  
HAND-  
SOME,  
TOO.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT  
WITH  
ME?



GIVEN THE SIZE  
OF THE DESERT,  
MAKING IT  
ACROSS IN  
FOUR DAYS IS  
GONNA BE A  
CLOSE CALL.

WE  
COULD GO  
AROUND,  
BUT  
THAT'D  
TAKE AT  
LEAST A  
WEEK.

I NEED TO  
GET THERE  
WITHIN FOUR  
DAYS' TIME -  
THAT'S INCLUDING  
TOMORROW -  
OR ELSE WE'RE  
OUT OF LUCK.

TO THE  
TOWN OF  
BARNABAS,  
ON THE  
OTHER  
SIDE OF  
THE  
DESERT.

I WANT  
YOU TO  
COME  
WITH  
ME -

THAT'S WHY  
I DEFINITELY  
NEED SOME  
HEAVY-DUTY  
BACKUP  
FOR THIS.



I PROMISE  
THERE'LL  
BE A NICE  
CHUNK OF  
CHANGE IN  
IT FOR  
YOU...

NO.

ARE YOU  
TRYING TO  
KILL ME?  
I'M OVER A  
HUNDRED  
YOU KNOW!

NO,  
DON'T!

ROAAARRR...

LEAVE.

EEP!

WHAT IF  
I HAVE A  
HEART  
ATTACK OR  
SOMETHING  
?

W...  
WHY  
NOT?

HIIT  
+ + + + +  
ROAAAARRRR...

STOP  
OR THIS  
CHILD -  
THIS  
GIRL -  
DIES  
TOO!

I  
SAID  
STOP  
IT!

Oh...

PLEASE,  
STOP!





SHE WAS  
ONE OF  
THE  
HIDDEN!

THIS  
GIRL'S  
NAME IS  
TAE -

WHAT'S  
MORE,  
IT WAS THE  
NOBILITY  
WHO TOOK  
HER!

MY  
NICKNAME'S  
"VIPER".

I'M A  
PEOPLE FINDER.  
I SPECIALIZE  
IN FINDING  
CHILDREN WHO'VE  
BEEN SPIRITED  
AWAY - I FIND  
THE HIDDEN.

DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT IT  
IS I DO?



DID YOU  
SAY "THE  
NOBILITY"  
?



SHE WAS  
TAKEN AT THE  
AGE OF TEN,  
AND HELD FOR  
EIGHT YEARS  
IN THE CASTLE  
OF THE  
NOBILITY.

I NEARLY  
KILLED  
MYSELF  
GETTING  
HER OUT  
OF CASTLE  
GRADINIA.

THIS GIRL IS  
A BONA FIDE  
HIDDEN ONE,  
SPIRITED  
AWAY BY THE  
NOBILITY.



THIS  
NOBLE -  
WHAT  
WAS HIS  
NAME?

GO ON  
NOW -  
ANSWER  
THE  
MAN.

\*\*\*  
\*\*\*

LEAVE.





THE DESERT THAT DIVIDES THE INNER  
AND OUTER FRONTIER IS KNOWN AS  
"THE DESERT OF NO RETURN."  
AND IS GREATLY FEARED.



THE ENDLESS STRETCH OF  
GOLDEN SAND—  
THE LEADEN SKY. NO RAY OF SUN  
IS ABLE TO PIERCE—



...BUT YOU  
CAN'T  
STOP US  
FROM  
COMING  
WITH  
YOU!

SO YOU  
MAY NOT  
WANT TO  
COME WITH  
US...



...WHICH  
HAPPENS  
TO BE  
EXACTLY  
WHERE  
WE'RE  
GOING,  
TOO.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
YOUR  
DEAL  
IS -

BUT IF  
YOU'RE  
CROSSING  
THE DESERT,  
THE ONLY  
POSSIBLE  
DESTINATION  
IS BAR-  
NABAS...





NONE WHO EVER CROSSED THIS  
DESERT CAME BACK TO TELL  
THE TALE.

I  
WOULDN'T  
WANT  
TO LOSE  
SUCH A  
VALUABLE  
ESCORT  
AS YOU!

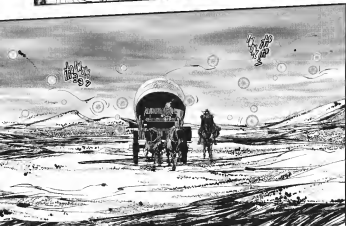
BUT IF  
YOU  
GUYS ARE  
GONNA  
FIGHT,  
AT LEAST  
WAIT UNTIL  
AFTER THIS  
TRIP IS  
OVER.

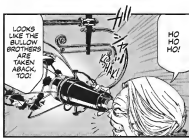
THEIR  
BEEF IS  
PROBABLY  
WITH  
YOU.

THOSE  
TWO ARE  
FOLLOWING  
US.

...









TRY SHOOTING ONE.

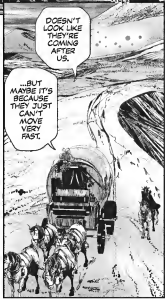


OH?



THOSE TWO ARE COMING, TOO.

I'LL WAIT.



DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'RE COMING AFTER US.

...BUT MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THEY JUST CAN'T MOVE VERY FAST.





WE'RE NOT  
EVEN FIVE  
KILOMETERS  
OUT OF  
TOWN YET!

WHAT  
THE HELL  
WERE  
THOSE  
THINGS  
?



LUCKY  
IT MISSED  
YOU, EH?



HEY!  
YOU  
LOUSY  
MAG!



LOOK  
WHAT YOU  
DID TO MY  
PRECIOUS  
HAT!

THAT  
WAS A  
DAMN  
FOOL  
THING  
YOU DID!



I WAS  
AFRAID HE'D  
CUT ME  
DOWN IF I  
DIDN'T DO  
AS HE SAID!

BUT  
HANDSOME  
OVER  
THERE IS  
THE ONE  
WHO TOLD  
ME TO  
SHOOT.



LOOKS LIKE YOU DIDN'T GET ANY OF THEIR CONTENTS ON YOU.



WELL, TOO BAD GETTING SPLATTERED BY THOSE THINGS WOULD BE A DISHONOR TO THE BULLOW BROTHERS' NAME!



I SEE... SO THAT WAS YOUR PLAN.



IS THAT TRUE?



**BULL-SHIT!**

INSTINCT.

GIVE IT A REST, CLAY.



BESIDES, EVEN IF YOU HAD GOTTEN SOME ON YOU, I DOUBT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIFE THREATENING.



HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT?!

BUT NOW WE HAVE NO MEANS OF DEALING WITH THEM WHEN THEY NEXT APPEAR.







YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT THEY  
SAY: IT'S  
BEST TO  
TRAVEL IN  
NUMBERS

WHAT IN  
BLAZES  
ARE  
THESE?

BUTTER-  
FLIES?!





HOW  
DO YOU  
LIKE  
THAT?!

TASTE  
THE FURY OF  
THIS FLAME-  
THROWER.  
A SPECIALTY  
WEAPON  
DIRECT  
FROM THE  
CAPITAL!

COME  
AND GET  
SOME!



CRAP!

NO  
MATTER  
HOW  
MANY WE  
FIGHT OFF,  
THEY JUST  
KEEP  
COMING!

DAMMIT,  
I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH!



GOD-  
DAMN  
BUGS!

BRO?













WHAT DID  
I DO TO  
DESERVE  
THIS...



OWW...



**EEEEK!**



BRO!  
WHERE  
ARE  
YOU?

CRAP...  
WHAT IS  
THIS  
PLACE?







WHAT'S  
UP WITH  
HIM?



HOW...  
HOW DID  
YOU ALL  
GET  
HERE?

HEY -  
WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

A TRIP  
THROUGH  
THE SKY  
COURTESY OF  
THAT STUPID  
TORNADO.



WE'RE  
NEVER  
GOING TO  
GET OUT  
OF HERE...



I KNEW  
IT...  
THAT  
MEANS  
WE'RE -

YOU...  
TOO?





MY  
NAME IS  
LANCE.

I CAME TO THIS  
DESERT FIVE  
YEARS AGO WITH  
MY COMPANIONS  
IN ORDER TO  
CONDUCT  
EXPERIMENTS ON  
A NEW STRAIN OF  
SEED THAT WOULD  
GROW EVEN IN THE  
COLDEST  
ENVIRONMENT  
WITHOUT ANY  
WATER.

IT WAS PART  
OF A FARMING  
GROUP IN THE  
NORTHERN  
FRONTIER  
INVOLVED IN  
THE EFFORT  
TO IMPROVE  
CROPS.

BUT FOR SOME  
REASON, I  
ALONE WAS  
SPARED AND  
SINCE THEN  
HAVE BEEN  
LIVING AMONG  
THE BANDITS AS  
ONE OF THEM.

WE WERE  
CAUGHT IN A  
SANDSTORM  
AND ATTACKED  
BY BANDITS IN  
THE NIGHT.  
MY COMPANIONS  
WERE ALL  
SLAUGHTERED.

BUT AS  
SOON AS WE  
ARRIVED...

WHAT  
CHANCE  
DID I  
HAVE?

NO GLADE,  
NO BULLET  
HARMS  
THEM -  
EVEN IF I  
SHOOT  
AT  
THEM.

THE  
BANDITS  
AS IT TURNS  
OUT ARE  
IMMORTAL.

I HAD NO  
OTHER  
CHOICE.





AND ARE  
THESE  
MUMMY-  
ZOMBIE  
GUYS  
CONTROLLED  
BY HIM,  
TOO?

WHO'S  
CON-  
TROLLING  
THAT  
TORNADO  
?

IT'S NOT  
LIKE I WAS  
CONTENT  
TO REMAIN  
HERE.



YOU SAY  
WE WERE  
"BROUGHT  
HERE"?

WHEN I HEARD ABOUT  
ALL OF YOU BEING  
BROUGHT HERE, I WAS  
DETERMINED THAT THIS  
TIME I WOULD ESCAPE,  
NO MATTER WHAT THEY  
DID TO ME.



...THOUGH  
IT'S MY  
BELIEF  
THAT HE'S  
**NOT**  
HUMAN.



BUT I HAVE  
NO IDEA  
WHO THE  
MASTERMIND  
MIGHT BE.

OH,  
THERE'S  
NO  
MISTAK-  
ING  
THAT.



FOR FIVE YEARS  
I'VE TRIED TO  
FIND OUT AT LEAST  
THAT MUCH...  
BUT I HAVEN'T  
EVEN BEEN ABLE  
TO DISCOVER  
WHETHER HE'S  
HUMAN OR NOT.



IT  
COULDN'T  
BE THE  
ACT OF  
ANY  
MORTAL.

...I WAS ALWAYS  
STOPPED BY A  
SANDSTORM, OR  
OTHER ODD THINGS  
LIKE AN ENDLESS  
EXPANSE OF WATER.  
(I GUESS IT MUST'VE  
BEEN THAT THING THEY  
CALL THE SEA?)  
BARRING MY WAY.

YOU SEE,  
NO MATTER  
HOW MANY  
TIMES I  
LEFT THE  
LAIR TO  
TRY AND  
ESCAPE...



THE  
DES-  
ERT?

ARE YOU SAYING  
EVERYTHING  
THAT'S BEEN  
ASSAILING US  
HAS BEEN  
DOING SO  
ACCORDING TO  
THE DESERT'S  
COMMAND?



MOST  
LIKELY  
BY THE  
DESERT.

THE  
TORNADO  
IS CON-  
TROLLED.



WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?

HMM...  
MAYBE A  
SPELL,  
OR SOME  
KIND OF  
TOMFOOLERY  
BY THE  
NOBILITY?



WE'RE ALL  
MOVING  
OUT IN  
YOUR  
WAGON.  
LET'S  
GO.

YO,  
OLD  
HAS -

ANYHOW,  
THE FIRST  
THING WE  
HAVE TO DO  
IS GET OUT  
OF THIS  
ROCK PILE.



IT'S  
REALLY  
NOT SO  
SUR-  
PRISING.

I  
ALREADY  
MEN-  
TIONED THE  
MOVING  
FOREST.



DO  
AS YOU  
LIKE.



WE'LL  
JUST BE  
BROUGHT  
BACK BY  
THE  
TORNADO  
AGAIN.

IT'S  
NO  
USE.



THEN WHAT  
THE HELL  
ARE WE  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO?!



IS  
SOME-  
THING  
COMING  
?



HELL,  
IF IT'S ONLY  
TEN OR SO  
I CAN TAKE  
CARE OF  
'EM ONE-  
HANDED.



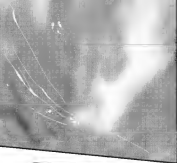
TO  
TAKE  
HIM  
BACK  
...

NO -  
PERHAPS  
TO KEEP  
HIM FROM  
TALKING.



HORSES.

...PROB-  
ABLY HIS  
"FRIENDS."  
ABOUT  
TEN  
RIDERS.







THE  
REST  
OF YOU,  
WE'LL  
LET BE.

WE'VE  
COME  
FOR THAT  
MAN.

JUST HAND  
HIM BACK OVER  
TO US, AND YOUR  
LIFE IN THIS  
PLACE WILL BE  
GUARANTEED.

THAT'D  
BE BEST,  
DON'T  
YOU  
AGREE?

...



YOU IN  
PARTICULAR  
INTEREST ME  
GREATLY.

I'D LIKE  
TO AVOID  
A FIGHT  
IF POS-  
SIBLE.

THEN I  
GUESS IT  
CAN'T BE  
HELPED.







WHERE  
IS THE  
ROUTE  
OUT OF  
THIS  
PLACE?

I  
DON'T  
KNOW.



THE  
DEAD  
SHOULD  
RETURN  
TO BEING  
DEAD.



HAHAHA...  
SERVES  
YOU  
RIGHT!



DYING,  
ONLY  
TO BE  
RESUR-  
RECTED...

TRAPPED IN  
THIS DESERT,  
USED BY SOME  
UNKNOWN  
ENTITY TO ACT  
FOR SOME  
UNKNOWN  
PURPOSE...

MAY YOU  
SUFFER  
THE SAME  
FATE AS  
OURS...







OH,  
WE'RE  
NOT SO  
DIFFERENT  
FROM  
YOU.

THAT  
HAND-  
SOME  
GUY YOU  
SAW?  
HE'S A  
HUNTER.



...IT'S LIKE  
YOU'RE A  
COMPANY  
OF  
SUPER-  
NATURAL  
FREAKS.

I  
SUSPECTED  
YOU  
WERE NO  
ORDINARY  
TRAVELERS  
BUT...

WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?  
AND FOR  
WHAT  
PURPOSE?



OKAY

SO THE  
GUYS  
WHO WERE  
AFTER YOU  
HAVE ALL  
BEEN DEALT  
WITH.

CARE TO  
TRY AND  
REMEM-  
BER ANY  
BETTER  
STORIES  
?



BUT I DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
WHERE ALL  
THE MEALS  
THEY WERE  
GIVING  
ME CAME  
FROM.

AT  
THIS RATE,  
I'LL SOON  
BE A  
SUN-DRIED  
CORPSE,  
TDD.

I  
HOPE  
SO...



YOU  
ESCAPED  
KNOWING  
THAT WAS  
THE RISK  
YOU'D FACE,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?

YOU'RE  
A GROWN  
MAN -  
STOP ACTING  
LIKE SUCH  
A WIMP!



I  
PROMISE  
WE'LL GET  
YOU OUT  
OF HERE,  
SAFE AND  
SOUND.

DON'T  
YOU  
WORRY





...LEFT  
ME  
ALONE  
WITH  
YOU.

GRANNY  
VIPER...



I GUESS  
SHE  
THOUGHT  
YOU  
TRUST-  
WORTHY  
ENOUGH...

...WHEN IN  
REALITY  
YOU'RE  
THE MOST  
DANGEROUS  
ONE OF  
ALL...



THE  
CASTLE'S  
TOO?

BUT  
YOU DO  
REMEMBER  
THE  
NOBLE'S  
NAME?



I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
MUCH  
ABOUT  
ANY TIME  
THERE,  
BUT...

I THOUGHT  
I WAS GOING  
TO HAVE TO  
SPEND THE  
REST OF MY  
LIFE IN THAT  
NOBLE'S  
CASTLE.

I NEVER  
DREAMED  
I'D BE  
ABLE  
TO GO  
HOME...

...CASTLE  
GRADINIA  
...

AND  
THE  
NOBLE?





WHAT?

JUST  
HIM?

...

WAS HE  
THE ONLY  
NOBLE  
YOU MET  
THERE?

CASTLE  
GRADINIA  
SERVES A  
SPECIAL  
PURPOSE.



MARQUIS  
VENESSIGER



THERE  
WAS ONE  
OTHER...

HE WAS  
TALLER  
THAN THE  
MARQUIS  
AND MORE  
REGAL...

I NEVER  
SAW  
HIS FACE,  
BUT -

...HE HAD  
BLAZING  
RED  
EYES.



-LIKE  
BURNING  
JEWELS.



DESCRIBE  
HIS  
GAZE.

YES,  
EXACTLY.

BLAZING  
CRIMSON,  
AND  
PIERCING...

A GAZE  
THAT  
SEEMED TO  
SWALLOW  
ME UP  
BOTH BODY  
AND SOUL.

...AND I  
COULD NO  
LONGER  
THINK AT  
ALL...

JUST  
ONE  
GAZE  
FROM  
HIM...

BUT NOW  
THAT YOU  
MENTION  
IT -

DID HE  
DO  
ANYTHING  
TO YOU?

OH...  
I KNOW...  
IT'S  
BECAUSE  
HE  
SEEMED  
SO  
TERRIBLY  
SAD...

NOW THAT  
I THINK  
ABOUT IT...  
HE KIND OF  
REMINDS  
ME OF  
YOU.

I  
WONDER  
WHY?



THE KING  
WITH RED  
EYES IS  
THE ONE  
WHO  
REIGNS.

EVEN NOW,  
IN A WORLD  
WHERE THE  
POWER OF THE  
NOBILITY  
WANES LIKE  
THAT OF THE  
SETTING SUN,  
A MOVE FROM  
HIS BLACK  
WINGS SENDS  
A GUST OF  
WIND THAT  
AFFECTS THE  
FATE OF MANY.



I ASK  
AGAIN -  
WHAT DID  
HE DO  
TO YOU?



NOTHING  
AT ALL.

I JUST...  
MET WITH  
HIM.

...NO.

YOURS  
MAY BE  
ONE OF  
THOSE  
AFFECTED.







A close-up, black and white illustration of a woman's face, partially in shadow. She has dark hair and is looking downwards with a somber expression.

ALONE, SHE  
MIGHT'VE  
BEEN FINE...  
BUT IT WILL  
BE A HARD  
LIFE FOR  
THE TWO.

A close-up, black and white illustration of an older man's face. He has a large, bushy mustache and is looking slightly to the side with a weary or questioning expression.

WHAT'S  
THAT  
SUPPOSED  
TO MEAN?

A black and white illustration of a man in a dark, rocky environment. He is wearing a hat and a patterned vest, looking upwards with a concerned expression. A bright light source is visible in the background, casting a beam of light.

OH  
WELL,  
NEVER  
MIND.

A black and white illustration of a man in a dark, rocky environment. He is wearing a hat and a patterned vest, looking upwards with a concerned expression. A bright light source is visible in the background, casting a beam of light.

JUST HURRY  
UP AND  
FIGURE A WAY  
TO GET US  
OUT OF THIS  
STUPID  
PLACE.  
WOULD YOU?







...







REMEMBER  
THAT!

TRY  
SOMETHING  
FUNNY LIKE  
THIS AGAIN  
AND I'LL  
KILL YOU  
MYSELF!

GOT  
THAT?

I'M NOT  
LETTING  
YOU PUT  
EVEN ONE  
LITTLE  
SCRATCH  
ON MY  
REPUTATION!



NOW  
YOU  
LISTEN  
TO ME -



YOU  
ARE MY  
VALUABLE  
MER-  
CHANDISE.

I CAN'T  
HAVE YOU  
DAMAGING  
YOURSELF  
AND  
LOWERING  
YOUR OWN  
VALUE!

PLEASE  
KILL ME.







OH -  
THEN  
FINE.

YOU JUST  
GO AHEAD  
AND DREDGE  
UP ONLY  
THE BAD  
MEMORIES  
UNTIL WE'VE  
CROSSED  
THIS DESERT.



PLEASE  
DON'T  
ASK  
SUCH A  
SILLY  
THING!



...DON'T  
HAVE  
ANY  
MEM-  
ORIES.

I...



A  
FABRIC  
SHOP  
...?



IT'S  
NOT LIKE  
PEOPLE  
NEED  
MEMORIES  
TO LIVE.

THEN  
JUST  
FOCUS ON  
THE  
FUTURE.

OKAY,  
OKAY -



I'M  
GONNA  
SAVE MY  
MONEY AND  
START UP  
A FABRIC  
SHOP!

I'VE  
GOT  
HOPES  
AND  
DREAMS  
OF MY  
OWN, YOU  
KNOW.



IT WAS  
PRETTY  
GOOD  
BUSINESS.

BEFORE I  
GOT INTO  
THIS LINE  
OF WORK,  
I WAS A  
MAKER OF  
CHILDREN'S  
CLOTHING IN  
THE CAPITAL.

YEAH,  
YOU MAY  
NOT KNOW  
IT BY THE  
LOOKS  
OF ME,  
BUT I'VE  
GOT A  
PRETTY  
GOOD  
SENSE OF  
FASHION.



MAY I  
REALLY  
?!

YOU CAN  
USE IT IF  
YOU'D  
LIKE.



A  
FABRIC  
SHOP...



IN THAT  
BOX ABOVE  
THE BED?  
THERE'S A  
SEWING  
MACHINE IN  
THERE!

AND I  
MAY AS  
WELL  
TELL  
YOU -



YES,  
A LITTLE,  
WHEN I  
WAS BACK  
HOME...

HAVE YOU  
USED ONE  
BEFORE?



BUT IF  
YOU WASTE  
IT, YOUR  
FAMILY'S  
GONNA HAVE  
TO PAY  
COMPEN-  
SATION  
WHEN I  
HAND YOU  
OVER!

THERE'S  
SOME  
MATERIAL  
IN  
THERE.

THEN  
GO ON  
AND  
GIVE IT  
A TRY.



AND  
HOO BOY,  
IS THAT  
MAN  
EVER  
TOUGH ON  
HIMSELF!

THOSE WHO  
ARE SO  
TOUGH ON  
THEMSELVES  
- WELL,  
IT'S NOT  
A VERY  
EASY WAY  
OF LIFE.

IT'S JUST  
THAT HE'S  
SO TRUE TO  
HIS OWN  
STOIC WAY  
OF LIFE.  
HE DOESN'T  
HOLD BACK  
ON SAYING  
THE HARSH  
THINGS,  
TOO.

HE MAY  
ALWAYS  
LOOK GRIM,  
BUT HE'S  
NOT THE  
TYPE WHO  
BLAMES OR  
SHAMES  
OTHER  
PEOPLE.

...  
  
I GATHER  
THE  
VAMPIRE  
HUNTER  
SAID SOME  
PRETTY  
CALLOUS  
THINGS TO  
YOU, BUT  
NEVER YOU  
MIND.



IF WE WERE TO  
TEAR OPEN HIS  
CHEST AND HAVE  
A LOOK INSIDE,  
BOTH YOU AND I  
WOULD PROBABLY  
PERISH FROM ALL  
THE SORROW  
WE'D SEE IN  
THERE.









I  
WOULDN'T  
KNOW.

IN YOUR  
EXPERIENCE,  
HAS THERE  
EVER BEEN  
A HIDDEN  
ONE WHO  
REMAINED  
SETTLED AT  
HOME AFTER  
THEIR  
RETURN?



AT LEAST,  
THAT'S THE  
MAXIM OF  
TRAVELERS  
ON THE  
FRONTIER.  
BUT IS THAT  
REALLY THE  
CASE?



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING,  
THAT I  
SHOULDN'T  
TAKE HER  
HOME?

-ARE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
THE  
GIRL?



A  
HIDDEN  
ONE?



I MET  
ONE  
ONCE.



I FOUND THE  
BOY, ABOUT  
EIGHT YEARS  
OLD, FREEZING  
ON THE BANKS  
OF THE RIVER.

THE  
ENTIRE  
VILLAGE  
HAD  
DRIVEN  
HIM OUT.

HE DIED  
NOT LONG  
AFTER I  
HEARD HIS  
STORY.

GET  
WHAT?

DON'T  
YOU  
GET  
IT?

HAD HE  
DONE  
SOME-  
THING  
WRONG?

THAT  
WAS  
ALL.

THE BOY  
HAD BEEN  
WITH THE  
NOBILITY FOR  
THREE  
MONTHS.

THEN  
WHY?

OKAY,  
FINE!

HE HAD  
DONE  
NOTHING  
AT ALL.

...WENT TO  
THE MAYOR  
AND  
VIGILANTE  
LEADER,  
CLAIMING  
SHE'D BEEN  
BITTEN.

BUT A  
CERTAIN  
WOMAN,  
OVERCOME  
[WITH PARANOIA...

AND, EVEN  
THOUGH  
IT WAS  
OBVIOUS  
AT FIRST  
GLANCE  
THAT HER  
WOUND  
WAS  
FAKE...

DURING THE  
SIX MONTHS HE  
LIVED WITH HIS  
PARENTS  
HE SHOWED  
NOT A SINGLE  
SIGN OF  
ANYTHING  
STRANGE.

A DOCTOR  
HAD EVEN  
VERIFIED  
THAT THERE  
WAS NOTHING  
OUT OF THE  
ORDINARY  
WITH THE  
BOY.

...

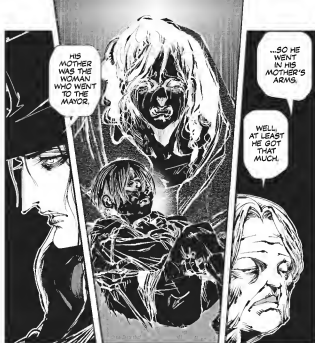
THE FATHER  
WHO TRIED  
TO STOP  
THEM WAS  
KILLED,  
AND THE  
HOUSE  
TORCHED.

...IT TOOK  
LESS THAN  
AN HOUR  
FOR THE  
WHOLE  
VILLAGE TO  
DESCEND  
UPON THE  
BOY'S HOME.

HIS  
MOTHER  
WAS THERE  
WITH HIM.  
THE STORY  
I CAME  
FROM HER.

HOW  
AWFUL

BUT I'M  
AMAZED A BOY  
WHO WAS AT  
DEATH'S DOOR  
WAS ABLE TO  
GIVE YOU SUCH  
A DETAILED  
ACCOUNT.





...WHICH  
MEANS IF  
SOMEONE  
WANTED  
TO KILL  
YOU, THE  
BEST TIME  
WOULD BE  
DURING  
THE DAY.

I UNDER-  
STAND  
IT'S QUITE  
TOUGH FOR  
DHAMPIRS  
TO BE IN  
THE SUN.

I GUESS  
THERE'S  
NO GOING  
AGAINST  
YOUR  
BLOOD -



BY  
THE  
WAY...



-OOPS!





THEN  
THAT  
GIRL IS -  
...?

...A  
VAMPIRE  
HUNTER?

...A  
HUNTER  
...



THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I WANT TO  
SHOW YOU  
GUYS.

FOLLOW  
ME.

...AND  
CLAY STILL  
HASN'T  
COME  
BACK  
YET.

IT'S  
ALMOST  
SUNSET...



...  
ALREADY  
BEEN  
TAKEN TO  
THE  
WAGON.

THEY'VE  
...

H-HEY!  
WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
OTHER  
TWO?!

THIS  
WAY.



IT'S  
FINALLY  
TIME!

HOT  
DIGGITY!  
FINALLY...







-HUMANS  
LIKE YOU  
BEFORE.



I HAVE  
NEVER  
ENCOUNTERED  
BEINGS  
LIKE YOU -



HMPH!  
IF YOU  
WANTED TO  
STUDY A  
HUMAN,  
LANCE  
ALONE  
WOULD'VE  
SUFFICED.  
NO?

IT IS  
QUITE AN  
INTERESTING  
HUMAN  
SPECIMEN.

THAT ONE IS  
CURRENTLY  
UNDER MY  
INSPECTION.



WHAT  
HAVE  
YOU  
DONE  
WITH THE  
OTHER  
TWO?



IF  
YOU'VE  
DONE  
ANYTHING  
TO HER,  
I'LL MAKE  
YOU  
REGRET  
IT!

THE MAN  
I COULD  
TAKE OR  
LEAVE,  
BUT THE  
GIRL IS A  
VALUABLE  
GUEST OF  
MINE!

IT SEEMS  
THERE ARE  
ALL MANNER  
OF THINGS  
THAT EXIST  
BEYOND MY  
WORLD.





ARE  
YOU THE  
DESERT  
ITSELF?



OH,  
I GET IT -  
IT'S THE  
FIRST TIME  
YOU'VE  
EVER SEEN  
A WOMAN!



-NO.



-THAT  
IS RIGHT.



EXTRACT  
INFORMATION, THEN  
USE US TO  
DEATH LIKE  
YOU DID  
WITH THAT  
OTHER  
MAN?

WHAT  
DO YOU  
INTEND  
TO DO  
WITH US?



BUT IF  
ANYONE  
DOES KNOW,  
I WOULD  
VERY MUCH  
LIKE TO BE  
TOLD.



I DO  
NOT  
KNOW.



WHEN  
DID YOU  
GAIN  
SEN-  
TENCE?





I WILL GET THE INFORMATION I DESIRE FROM THESE OTHERS.

FINE, I'M LEAVING NOW.

DO AS YOU LIKE.















...  
IS THAT  
YOU,  
D?



YOU  
FOOL...

SO  
YOU'VE  
FINALLY  
COME.



I  
DON'T  
KNOW.

I CAN'T  
SEE A  
THING...  
WHERE  
ARE WE?

CAN  
WE GET  
OUT?



GET EVERYONE BEHIND ME.

HEY, HUNTER!

NOW THAT'S SOME RANCY TRICKERY.

-YOU MEAN IT'S SOME KIND OF MIND CONTROL?



UNDERGROUND...BUT WE MAY NOT REALLY BE.



...AND SMOKE OUT WHOEVER'S CONTROLLING ALL THIS.

I'M GONNA USE MY FOCUSED SONIC WAVES OF DESTRUCTION.

TIME TO PLUCK ME A TUNE...



THESE THINGS -



THEY'RE GUARD-  
IANS.

IF YOU  
TOUCH ONE  
YOU'LL BE  
PARALYZED

YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT  
THEY  
ARE?



IT'LL MAKE  
YOU FEEL A  
LITTLE  
NAUSEOUS  
BUT YOU'LL  
JUST HAVE  
TO BEAR  
WITH IT.



IN-  
TEREST-  
ING.



GET 'EM!  
GET 'EM  
ALL!

HAHAHA  
TAKE  
THAT!













和



USING  
YOUR  
OWN  
BLOOD...

??

-YOU  
...??

IT  
CAN'T  
BE...



SO IT  
REALLY  
WAS ALL  
AN  
ILLUSION...



IF WE'RE  
GOING  
TO LEAVE,  
NOW'S  
THE  
TIME.

I FELT  
IT -  
YOU HIT  
THE  
MARK.

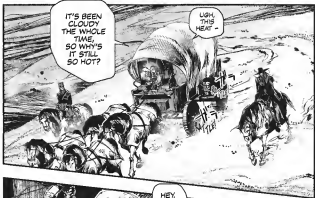


...D?



WE  
LEAVE IN  
TWENTY  
MINUTES.

YOU  
HANDLE  
THE  
REST.





HE DID  
LEND HIS  
STRENGTH  
TO SAVE  
YOU -

NOW,  
NOW -

...WHILE  
YOU WERE  
BUSY,  
YOU KNOW,  
BEING CON-  
TROLLED?



I'LL  
RETURN  
THE  
FAVOR  
SOME-  
DAY.

TCH!



NO ONE  
CAN  
KNOW THE  
ANSWER  
TO SUCH  
A BIG  
QUESTION!

HEH!  
HOW  
WOULD HE  
KNOW  
THAT?



UNLIKE YOU,  
THOSE TWO  
ARE JUST  
REGULAR  
PEOPLE.

CAN'T  
BE  
HELPED.

BUT NEVER-  
MIND THAT -  
ARE YOU  
SURE IT'S  
ALL RIGHT TO  
LEAVE THOSE  
TWO ALONE  
TOGETHER?



WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER  
?







THAT'S  
THE  
SPIRIT!

I MEAN,  
WHAT'S A  
SANDSTORM  
OR TWO...



ATTA  
BOY!

BUT IF  
YOU'D  
RATHER  
RISK  
IT...



?!  
...S-S-S  
...S-S-S



STOP  
HER,  
D!

おっ!  
おっ!  
おっ!









THAT'S A  
TRADE  
SECRET.



O,  
HOW ARE  
THINGS  
ON YOUR  
END?



WE  
SHOULD  
REST A  
MO-  
MENT.

THEN  
CAN YOU GO  
TO THE  
GIRL?

SHE'S LYING  
UNCON-  
SCIOUS  
OUT  
THERE.



WHAT'S  
WITH THAT  
SAND YOU  
USED?

HEY,  
OLD  
HAG -  
WHAT  
DID YOU  
DO?



WHAT DID  
THAT OLD  
WOMAN  
DO?













NO  
NEED.

ALL RIGHT,  
THEN -  
GIVE YOUR  
ENTIRE  
SHARE TO  
TAE.

YES SIR,  
YOU MEN  
**SURE**  
ARE  
GRAND.



SEEMS  
WE MAY  
NOT HAVE  
NEEDED  
TO BRING  
HER BACK.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
SUPPOSE  
SHE'S UP  
TO NOW?



THIS  
WAY.







I  
SWEAR  
...

SHE'S  
BEEN  
WALKING  
FOR  
THREE  
HOURS  
NOW.

JUST  
WHERE  
IS SHE  
TAKING  
US?

IS SHE  
OKAY?

...

THERE'S  
SHADE,  
TOO.

IT'S  
MUCH  
EASIER  
UP  
HERE.

WOULDN'T  
YOU LIKE  
TO TRADE  
PLACES  
WITH ME  
AND SIT  
HERE IN THE  
WAGON?

UM...  
HEY -

BUT -

DON'T  
CONCERN  
YOURSELF.

IS  
SOME-  
THING  
THE  
MATTER  
?



YEAH, BUT I'M BEGINNING TO LOSE MY CONFIDENCE EVEN IN THAT.



?

I CAN AT LEAST MANAGE TO STAY ON AT A WALK.

A LITTLE.

HAVE YOU RIDDEN A HORSE BEFORE?  
I'M USED TO IT.



YOUR JOB IS TO TURN THE BARREN WILDERNESS GREEN.



ALL I CAN DO IS TILL SOIL AND PLANT SEEDS.

YOU ALL HAVE SUCH AMAZING POWERS.

IN COMPARISON, I'M JUST A PLAIN OLD FARMER.



WHY IS THAT?



IF ONLY  
I COULD  
WIELD A  
SWORD  
LIKE A  
DHAMPIR,  
TOO...

OH...  
IF  
ONLY -

I  
COULD  
SETTLE  
FOR  
THAT.

BAH!

WHAT'S SO  
FUNNY?!

I GUESS  
IT'S TRUE -  
FARMERS  
REALLY  
DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING.

YOU'RE  
THE FIRST  
PERSON  
I'VE EVER  
MET WHO  
WISHES  
HE WERE A  
DHAMPIR!

HOW  
COULD  
I NOT  
LAUGH AT  
THAT?!

YOU'RE  
BETTER  
OFF  
SOWING  
SEEDLINGS  
ALL YOUR  
LIFE.

SOUNDS  
LIKE A  
FINE  
THING TO  
ME.

WHAT'S  
SO  
FUNNY  
ABOUT  
BEING A  
DHAMPIR  
?



BUT YOU  
HAVE NO  
IDEA OF  
THE DEATHLY  
PAIN HE'S  
ENDURING  
RIGHT NOW  
AS HE  
TRAVELS.

ALL WOMEN -  
NO, EVEN MEN -  
TAKE ONE  
LOOK AT HIS  
HANDSOME  
VISAGE AND GO  
WEAK IN THE  
KNEES.

ABSO-  
LUTELY  
STUNNING  
FROM HEAD  
TO TOE -

THE VERY  
VISION OF PER-  
FECTION.



TAKE A  
LOOK AT  
THAT  
YOUNG  
MAN.

...?



DO YOU EVEN  
KNOW WHAT  
KIND OF  
UPROAR  
HAPPENS AT A  
VILLAGE THAT  
HIRES A  
DHAMPİR?

YOU THINK  
PEOPLE  
ADMIRE  
AND  
APPRECIATE  
DHAMPİRS  
?

IN REALLY  
BAD CASES,  
THEY'RE  
HERDED  
INTO ONE  
LOCATION AND  
LOCKED UP  
UNTIL THE  
DHAMPİR'S  
JOB IS DONE.

FIRST OF ALL,  
NO WOMEN  
OR CHILDREN  
ARE EVER  
ALLOWED  
TO SET FOOT  
OUTSIDE  
THEIR HOUSES  
WHILE THE  
DHAMPİR IS  
IN TOWN.



SUNLIGHT  
BURNS HIS  
FLESH LIKE THE  
FLAMES OF A  
BLOWTORCH.

RUNNING  
WATER  
RENDERS HIM  
HELPLESS  
IF HE FALLS  
INTO IT,  
HE COULDN'T  
EVEN MOVE.

THE MERE  
TOUCH OF A  
ROSE WOULD  
MAKE HIM  
SCREAM AND  
WITHER AWAY  
IN AGONY.











I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D DESPAIR OF RAINING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

I SEE.



I SUPPOSE THE JOB OF A HUNTER'S ABOUT ALL YOU'RE GOOD FOR WITH THAT KIND OF GRIM ATTITUDE.



I GUESS EVEN THAT JOKE OF A DESERT HAS A CONSIDERABLE SIDE.

THIS SOUND - IT'S WATER!



IF CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE US ONE, THAT'S ALL.



AN 8 OR 9 OUT OF 10 CHANCE, YES.



THINK IT'S A TRAIL...?

SO THIS IS THE "MOVING FOREST"?











HEY!  
HOLD  
ON A -



HE  
PROBABLY  
WENT TO  
CHECK OUT  
THE AREA.

I'LL...  
I'LL GO  
LOOK FOR  
HIM!



...



SHE IS  
AT THAT  
AGE,  
AFTER  
ALL...

OH WELL,  
I SUPPOSE  
IT CAN'T BE  
HELPED.



HEY,  
YOU TWO -

YOU'D  
BEST STOP  
RIGHT NOW,  
UNLESS YOU  
WANT TO  
LOOK LIKE  
THE WORLD'S  
BIGGEST  
FOOLS.

...









THAT CHILD  
WITHIN  
YOU -  
WHO IS  
ITS  
SIRE?



YOU HAVE  
ONLY THE  
COLD, DARK  
BLOOD OF  
THE NOBLES  
RUNNING  
THROUGH  
YOUR VEINS.

...BUT  
IT'S A  
LIE.

THEY SAY  
DHAMPIRS  
HAVE HUMAN  
BLOOD MIXED  
IN WITH  
THAT OF THE  
NOBILITY'S...



...I WAS  
SO  
HAPPY.

I  
THOUGHT  
IF A MAN  
LIKE YOU  
COULD BE A  
DHAMPIR,  
THEN -  
WELL...

I WAS  
SO  
HOPEFUL  
ABOUT  
YOU...





WHICH NOBLE DOES IT BELONG TO?

YOU ARE WITH CHILD.



I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



WELL?



I DON'T KNOW!

IS IT "HIM"?



...  
...  
THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.



...  
BACK WHEN  
I WAS STILL  
AT THE  
CASTLE.



WHEN  
DID YOU  
REALIZE  
?



-UM, DO  
YOU  
KNOW  
WHEN THE  
BIRTH  
WILL BE?

I  
UNDER-  
STAND IT'S  
TYPICALLY  
TEN  
MONTHS  
AND TEN  
DAYS...



NOR-  
MALLY  
YES.

BUT IN  
YOUR CASE,  
IT WILL BE SIX  
MONTHS AFTER  
YOU FIRST  
NOTICED THE  
SIGNS.



... "IN MY  
CASE"?

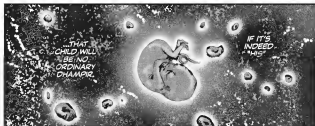
W...  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN...



WHAT  
COULD  
I HAVE  
DONE?

THEY HAD  
THE POWER  
TO KILL ME  
BY LIFTING  
JUST ONE  
FINGER.

I HAD  
NO CHOICE  
BUT TO DO  
AS THEY  
WANTED.





IT WILL  
BE JUST  
LIKE  
YOU...?



AN  
AMUSING,  
YET  
TERRIBLE  
TALE, NO?



COME TO  
THINK OF IT,  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
NOSTALGICALLY  
FAMILIAR  
ABOUT THIS  
DESERT

YOU'VE  
NOTICED IT,  
TOO,  
HAVEN'T  
YOU?



ONE  
CAN ONLY  
WONDER  
WHAT THIS  
GIRL'S PATH  
WILL BE...





SO HE  
WON,  
THEN.



SHE'LL  
WAKE  
UP IN  
TEN  
MIN-  
UTES.

I PUT  
HER TO  
SLEEP.

SHE'S  
ALL  
RIGHT.



VERY  
PERCEP-  
TIVE OF  
YOU!



THAT  
FARMER  
LAD -  
HE'S  
PRETTY  
GOOD!

THAT FOOL  
CLAY IS  
OVER THERE  
PASSED OUT  
IN THE  
BUSHES.



USED  
ONLY  
BARE  
FISTS THE  
WHOLE  
TIME.

BUT I  
MUST SAY  
CLAY HAS  
A GOOD  
SIDE,  
TOO.









ROUND  
2 -  
LET'S  
GO!

I WON'T  
TAKE NO  
FOR AN  
ANSWER!



SO  
THERE  
YOU ARE,  
FARM  
BOY...



ALL RIGHT,  
FINE.  
VAMPIRE  
HUNTER "O"  
HERE WILL  
BE OUR  
WITNESS.



IF I  
WIN...

...YOU  
PROMISE  
TO NEVER  
MAKE A  
MOVE ON  
THAT GIRL  
EVER  
AGAIN.









AL-  
RIGHTY.

NO.



DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

REALLY? OKAY.



PLEASE DON'T TAKE ANY OF IT TO HEART.

HEY, ABOUT WHAT I SAID TO YOU EARLIER IN THE DAY -

I HEAR TAE SAID SOME TERRIBLE THINGS TO YOU, TOO.

AND IT'S NOT JUST ME -

I'M SORRY.

PLEASE FORGIVE US.



...



... YOU -

YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?



OH, THAT'S A LOAD OFF MY MIND!

I'M COUNTING ON YOUR CONTINUED HELP IN THE FUTURE.

I MEAN, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE PETTY ABOUT IT OR ANYTHING, BUT STILL -

NOW I FINALLY FEEL AT PEACE.



THE GIRL -  
SHE'S  
PREGNANT.

UNLESS SHE  
SOMEHOW  
DOESN'T MAKE  
IT THROUGH  
ALIVE, SHE'S  
GONNA HAVE TO  
GIVE BIRTH  
SOONER OR  
LATER.

AND THE  
CHILD IS  
LIKELY A  
NOBLE'S.



WHAT DO  
YOU THINK  
ABOUT  
THE KID?

HEY -

IS IT  
GONNA  
TURN OUT  
TO BE A  
DHAMPIR  
?



IF IT'S A  
NOBLE'S  
CHILD,  
YES.



OH?

CUZ  
THAT'S  
MY  
JOB.

YOU MEAN  
YOU'RE  
CONCERNED  
FOR THE  
RATE OF  
ANOTHER?

I INTEND  
TO RETURN  
HER HOME,  
THAT'S  
WHAT.



WHAT  
DO YOU  
INTEND  
TO DO?

-SOMETHING  
NOT FOUND  
IN ANY OTHER  
HUNTER'S  
VOCABULARY -

YOU'RE  
SEARCHING  
FOR A  
"TOMORROW".

SURELY A  
MAN LIKE YOU  
MUST KNOW  
OF SOME WAY  
A DHAMPIR  
CAN MAKE IT  
IN THE WORLD  
WITHOUT  
RESORTING TO  
BECOMING A  
HUNTER.

YOU'RE A  
DHAMPIR,  
TOO.

I'VE GOT  
AN IDEA -  
WHY DON'T  
YOU LOOK  
AFTER THE  
KID?

IS THAT  
WHAT  
YOU  
THINK?

YEAH!

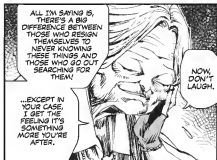
THEN WHY  
DO YOU  
SUPPOSE I  
AM A  
HUNTER?

YOU COULD NEVER  
LIVE CASUALLY  
AMONGST THE  
NORMAL PEOPLE -  
YOUR PRIDE  
WOULD NEVER  
ALLOW IT!

AW,  
YOU'RE  
JUST  
AWKWARD  
IS ALL.

SUCH  
AS?

BESIDES...  
I SENSE  
YOU'RE  
SEARCHING  
FOR  
SOMETHING.



"DREAMS"  
"HOPE"  
"RAINBOWS?..."

... "LOVE".





...BUT  
I'VE GOT  
A FEELING  
WE  
COULD  
MAKE  
IT.

I DON'T  
REALLY  
UNDER-  
STAND  
THE SITU-  
ATION...

YOU  
KNEW  
HE WAS  
LISTENING,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?!

WHAT  
THE - ?  
YOU  
BUSY-  
BODY!

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
?!

SHE  
AND I  
COULD  
LIVE  
TOGETHER,  
AND -

UH...  
WELL -

SAVE YOUR  
RAMBLINGS  
FOR YOUR  
DREAMS.

IT'S NOT  
GONNA  
BE AS  
EASY AS  
THAT!

I'LL DO  
EVERYTHING  
I CAN TO  
HELP IT  
FIND THE  
BEST WAY  
OF LIFE.

LEAVE  
THE  
CHILD  
TO  
ME.





DON'T  
TALK  
SO  
BIG!

THAT'S  
WHAT  
YOU'LL  
DO,  
TOO.

BUT ONCE  
THE BLOOD OF  
THE NOBILITY  
AWAKENS  
WITHIN THEM,  
ALL THOSE  
SWEET-TALKING  
SUITORS...



...SUD-  
DENLY  
RUN  
AND  
HIDE.



EVEN  
KNOWING  
THEY'RE  
CHAMPIRS,  
TONS OF  
SUITORS  
COME  
FLOCKING  
FOR THEIR  
AFFECTION.

AS  
INFANTS  
AND  
CHILDREN,  
THEY'RE  
THE VERY  
IMAGE OF  
SWEET  
LITTLE  
ANGELS.

CHAMPIRS -  
BOTH MALE  
AND  
FEMALE -  
ARE  
TYPICALLY  
VERY  
BEAUTIFUL  
OF FACE.



AFTER THAT,  
IT'S UP TO  
HER WHICH  
MAN SHE  
CHOOSES.

THAT GIRL  
IS TOO  
GOOD FOR  
A FARMER  
THE LIKES  
OF YOU!

YOU'LL BE  
DEAD BEFORE  
THIS TRIP IS  
THROUGH  
ANYWAY.

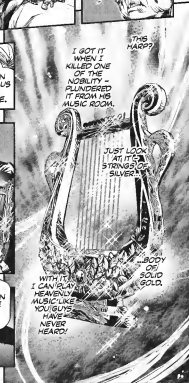


HAVE YOU  
LOOKED IN  
A MIRROR  
LATELY?

AND YOU  
THINK THAT  
MAN WILL  
BE YOU,  
DO YOU?



WELL SAID,  
OLD  
HAG!





YOU'D  
LIKE TO  
HEAR HIM,  
TOO,  
WOULDN'T  
YOU?



ALL RIGHT,  
I'LL  
PERFORM  
ONE OF MY  
SPECIALLY  
RESERVED  
TUNES!

WELL...  
IT'S  
TOTALLY  
WASTED ON  
ALL YOUR  
ROTTING  
EARS,  
BUT...



SO?  
HOW  
ABOUT  
IT?

WOO-  
HOO!



JUST DON'T  
GO DIVING  
INTO THE  
WATERFALL  
BASIN IN  
RAPTURE OF  
MY BEE-  
YOOTIFUL  
VOICE OR  
ANYTHING  
LIKE THAT!



SH-  
HANG  
!>★



FROM HIS  
LOOKS,  
YOU'D NEVER  
GUESS HE  
HAD SUCH A  
BEAUTIFUL  
SINGING  
VOICE.

HM, HE'S  
PRETTY  
GOOD.



I FORGOT - I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO MAKE A MOVE ON YOU WHILE THIS FARMER'S STILL ALIVE.





...  
I - ...











LANCE!

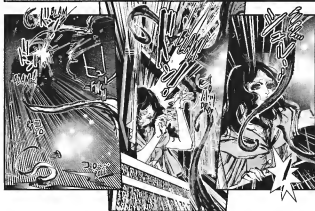
GET  
BACK  
IN THE  
WAGON.

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?!















로아아아아아...  
ROAAARRR...

THE  
FOREST...  
IS  
MOVING...

ROOUMBLE

NO -  
IT'S  
REAL.

IS THIS  
ANOTHER  
ILLUSION  
?!

D-!

I  
SEE.

THAT  
MEANS  
I CAN  
HANDLE  
IT.









THE  
FOREST  
HAS  
INCREASED  
ITS SPEED!

HURRY!



SHE'S  
THE ONE  
WHO  
BEGGED  
ME TO  
SAVE  
YOU.



HEH!  
THAT  
SOFT-  
HEARTED  
OLD  
GEEZER



...WORK  
MY  
MAGIC.

JUST  
YOU  
WATCH  
ME...

THEN  
WHY  
THE  
HELL  
ARE  
YOU  
JUST  
STANDING  
THERE?!

ZWOOSH!!  
ZWOOSH!!  
ZWOOSH!!













WE HEREBY COMMIT  
OUR BELOVED INTO  
THE ETERNAL REST  
OF THY KINGDOM,  
INTO THE DREAMS OF  
THY GENTLE ARMS...



THOUGH WE WANDER THE  
EARTH SEEKING THEE,  
NO ANSWERS ARE GIVEN,  
NAUGHT BUT SHADOW  
DO WE SEE IN THIS  
TROUBLED WORLD.





I USED  
TO SAY MY  
PRAYERS  
EVERY  
MORNING  
WITHOUT  
FAIL WHEN I  
WAS BACK  
AT THE  
CASTLE  
OF THE  
NOBILITY  
...

STRANGE  
...



...I'VE  
FORGOT-  
TEN HOW  
IT GOES.



...

NEITHER GREAT NOR SMALL ARE WE;  
OFF INTO THE DISTANCE WE GO,  
ONLY TO BE BORN AGAIN,

AND THUS ARE WE CALLED  
THE FAR WANDERERS...



WE ARE THEE  
AND THOU  
ART US.



YET WE KNOW NOT FEAR;  
THE WORDS OF SILENCE ARE  
KNOWN TO US,

AND AS WE SEE THE  
UNSEEN -



D...











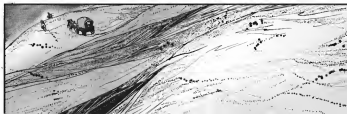
SO  
WHAT'LL  
WE DO  
NOW?



...WE  
FINISH THE  
DESERT  
OFF, ONCE  
AND FOR  
ALL.







ROOAAAARRRRR...









THAT'S  
RIGHT.

IT'S THE  
DESERT,  
ISN'T  
IT?

THE  
ONE WHO  
ATTACKED  
US...



I  
THANK  
YOU.

I  
UNDERSTAND  
YOU TWICE  
SAVED MY  
BROTHER'S  
LIFE.

...



I  
DREAMT...  
AND SAW  
WHAT THE  
DESERT  
DREAMS.



I SAW  
IT IN A  
DREAM.

HOW  
DID YOU  
KNOW?













YOU  
SAID  
YOU  
SAW IT  
IN A  
DREAM.

IS  
THIS  
IT?



-SOME  
CRAZY  
IDEA ABOUT  
TRYING TO  
COMBINE  
HUMANS  
AND THE  
NOBILITY.

YES.



I SUPPOSE  
IT CAN'T BE  
FAULTED FOR  
WANTING TO  
BECOME  
SMARTER,  
GREATER,  
SOMETHING  
MORE.

EVEN  
AFTER THIS  
RESEARCH LAB  
FELL INTO RUIN,  
THE MACHINES  
CONTINUED  
TO RUN,  
AND PUMPED  
THEIR FINDINGS  
INTO THE  
DESERT.







IT'LL  
DO.



EARTH,  
WATER,  
FIRE,  
AIR...



IS IT  
ENOUGH  
?







THAT'S  
IT?

はぁあぁぁぁぁ  
おぉおぉおぉお



PLEASE,  
TELL  
ME...





TOWN OF BARNABAS

WELL,  
GUESS  
THIS IS  
WHERE  
WE PART  
WAYS!

A  
MILLION  
THANKS!  
REALLY!

WE'D  
NEVER  
HAVE MADE  
IT HERE  
WITHOUT  
YOU GUYS!



HUH?  
LEAVING  
ALREADY?

I'M  
ABOUT TO  
SET OUT  
TO RETURN  
THIS GIRL  
BACK HOME,  
BUT -





CH,  
AND  
GRANNY -

SEE  
YOU  
AGAIN,  
LITTLE  
LADY?



I WON'T  
BE  
HOLDING  
MY BREATH  
OR  
ANYTHING,  
BUT YEAH,  
OKAY!

**...+ + + +**

I'VE GOT  
TO HAND  
IT TO  
THE GREAT  
VAMPIRE  
HUNTER D -

WELCOME.  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT ON  
TIME.

YOU  
MANAGED  
TO CROSS  
THE  
DESERT  
WITHIN  
THE  
ALLOTTED  
TIME.

YOU SAID  
YOU HAD  
INFORMATION  
ON THE  
"PERSON  
OF GREAT  
INTEREST  
TO ME" -  
THAT IT  
WOULD  
BE MY  
PAYMENT.

LET'S  
HEAR  
IT.

SO  
HOW  
WAS  
YOUR  
TRIP?

YES,  
I AM  
ONE OF  
THEM.

THERE  
AREN'T  
MANY  
WHO CAN  
OPERATE A  
"FLYER"  
BUT...

YOU  
AREN'T  
GOING TO  
ASK HOW I  
MANAGED  
TO GET  
HERE  
BEFORE  
YOU?







GOOD -  
YOU'VE  
COME.

NOT  
COMBAT.

YOUR TRIAL  
WAS MEANT  
TO BE THE  
CROSSING OF  
THE DESERT -



WHAT YOU WITNESSED  
WAS BUT ONE ENDING.

WHAT  
DID YOU  
SEE?

WHAT WERE  
YOUR  
THOUGHTS...

...CONCERNING  
YOUR OWN  
FUTURE?

DO YOU YET  
HAVE THE WILL  
REMAINING TO  
FACE THE  
CRUEL DAYS  
AHEAD OF  
YOU?

DO YOU  
NOT WISH  
FOR  
REST?

HA!  
THAT'S  
IT!





VERY  
WELL.

SO THIS  
IS YOUR  
ANSWER.



IT'S JUST A  
RESIDUAL  
IMAGE FROM  
THE PAST.

IT'S  
NO  
USE.

STOP.

IT IS  
BEFITTING  
FOR ONE  
WHO IS MY  
SOLE  
SPECIMEN  
OF  
SUCCESS.

BUT SO LONG  
AS YOU  
EMBRACE  
THAT FATE,  
DEATH WILL  
EVERCAST  
ITS SHADOW  
OVER YOU.





WE'VE  
BEEN  
TRAPPED  
INSIDE A  
DREAM!

WHAT  
THE - ?



IF THE  
DREAMER  
AWAKENS,  
THE DREAM  
WILL  
DISAPPEAR -  
WITH US IN  
IT!

HURRY  
!











WHY  
COULDN'T  
YOU HAVE  
JUST DIED  
ON THE  
JOURNEY?

BUT...  
WHEN  
THEY  
STARTED  
CALLING  
MY  
BABY A  
VAMPIRE  
TOO -

REALLY  
I DID...

I...I WAS  
INTENDING  
TO PUT UP  
WITH IT  
NO MATTER  
WHAT  
THEY SAID  
ABOUT  
ME.

YOUR  
PRESENCE  
HERE IS ONLY  
GONNA GET  
OUR HOUSE  
BURNED  
DOWN!

YOUR MOTHER  
AND FATHER  
WERE THE  
ONES WHO  
HIRED 'OUT  
FOR YOUR  
SEARCH -  
NOT US!

YOU  
WHORE  
TO THE  
NOBILITY!

COME  
TOMORROW,  
I'LL  
MANAGE  
ON MY OWN.

PLEASE...  
LET ME  
STAY HERE,  
JUST FOR  
TONIGHT.

DO  
AS YOU  
LIKE.

IT'S  
ALL  
THE  
SAME  
TO THEM.

THE  
CHILD  
IS A  
DHAMPIR.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
PLAN  
TO DO?





...  
DAMPYR  
CHILDREN  
ARE SAID  
TO BE  
QUITE  
CONSI-  
DERATE.



YES

111







...



I CAN  
HEAR  
YOUR  
PULSE.

WHEN  
I WAS A  
CHILD,  
MY  
FATHER  
TOLD  
ME...

AND  
THAT'S  
WHY THEY  
HAVE NO  
HEART-  
BEAT  
EITHER.

AND I  
HONESTLY  
BELIEVED  
HIM.

...THAT  
DHAM-  
PIRS  
DON'T  
BREATHE.



YOUR  
BLOOD  
IS WARM,  
TOO.

I'M SO  
GLAD.

I'M  
GLAD  
IT'S  
NOT  
TRUE.

NOW I  
KNOW -  
A  
DHAMPIR'S  
HEART  
BEATS  
JUST LIKE  
OURS!

MY BABY  
IS GOING TO  
BE JUST  
LIKE YOU!  
ISN'T IT?







THAT  
SHOULD  
DO IT.

GOOD.



YOU KNOW,  
I'VE BEEN  
DOING SOME  
THINKING -

OH, BUT  
FIRST,  
ARE YOU  
SURE SHE  
WON'T  
WAKE  
UP?



AND I'M  
GONNA  
DO IT!

I CAN  
ISOLATE MY  
SAND ARTS TO  
AFFECT  
ONLY THE  
INSIDE OF  
A PERSON.  
TOO.



YOU KNOW  
WHAT  
HAS TO  
BE DONE,  
RIGHT?

RATHER THAN  
BOTH OF THEM  
HAVING TO LEAD  
AN EXISTENCE  
OF STRIFE, I THINK  
IT'D BE BETTER IF  
AT LEAST ONE  
OF THEM WERE  
ABLE TO LIVE A  
NORMAL LIFE.





STAY  
YOUR  
HAND.



FLINCH!

...  
LOOK AT  
YOU -  
JUST  
LOOK AT  
YOU!



JUST  
LOOK AT  
YOUR  
FACE  
RIGHT  
NOW!

NO MATTER  
HOW HANDSOME,  
OR WHAT  
SUPERHUMAN  
POWERS HE'S  
BORN WITH,  
IT'S THAT  
EXPRESSION THAT  
WILL WIN OUT IN  
THE END!



TAE'S  
CHILD  
WILL BE  
LIKE  
THAT,  
TOO.





WHAT...?  
I -

W-...  
WH-...



LIES...  
HOW  
DARE YOU  
ACCUSE  
ME OF  
SUCH A -

BUT  
LANCE  
AND TAE  
WERE  
TRAN-  
SPORTED  
AS THEY  
SLEPT.

TH-  
THAT'S  
JUST A  
COINCIDENCE

...  
DID ITS  
SHAPE  
MAKE  
YOU UN-  
COMFORT-  
ABLE?

IN THE  
DESERT,  
CLAY CAME  
TO ESCORT  
ME...  
AND YOU.

AND THAT  
GRAVE  
MARKER I  
MADE -  
BEYOND THE  
INITIAL  
GLANCE YOU  
GAVE, YOU  
WOULD NOT  
LOOK AT IT  
AGAIN.





...WHICH  
CAN  
ONLY  
COME  
FROM  
BEING  
ONE  
YOUR-  
SELF.

IT'S YOUR  
OVER-  
WHELMING  
BITTERNESS  
TOWARDS  
CHAMPIRS



I HAVE  
EVIDENCE,  
IT'S NOT  
MERELY  
AN ACCU-  
SATION.

...



CLAY!



THE ONLY  
REASON  
SHE'S STILL  
EVEN  
BREATHING  
IS BECAUSE  
SHE'S A  
DRAMPIR...

RIGHT  
THROUGH  
THE  
HEART.

D -

DON'T  
YOU  
TELL  
ME  
WHAT  
TO DO!

DON'T  
SPEAK.

I DON'T  
KNOW WHO  
DID THIS,  
OR WHY...  
BUT THIS  
IS THE END  
FOR ME.  
IT'S ALL  
RIGHT -  
JUST  
LEAVE  
ME BE.

HEY...  
WILL YOU  
HOLD MY  
HAND?

OH  
HURRY UP  
WOULD  
YOU?!

DON'T  
WAKE THE  
GIRL OVER  
THIS,  
EITHER!

I WANT  
TO GO  
NICE AND  
CALM.



I'D BENT  
OVER  
BACKWARDS  
TO RAISE  
HIM  
RIGHT...

ONE  
DAY,  
HE  
RAN  
AWAY.

...I  
ONCE  
HAD A  
KID,  
YOU  
KNOW.

HA  
HA...

HIS  
MOTHER  
WAS A  
DHAMPIR,  
SO OF  
COURSE  
HE WAS  
ONE,  
TOO.

...BUT IN  
THE END,  
HE TOOK  
OFF SAYING,  
"IF I'M A  
DHAMPIR,  
I'LL LIVE  
LIKE A  
DHAMPIR!"



TONIGHT  
MAY BE  
THE LAST  
NIGHT  
FOR IT,  
THOUGH.

-JUST  
LOOK  
AT HER  
PEACE-  
FUL  
FACE.



Y'SEE,  
ON THE  
EVE  
BEFORE  
HIS  
WEDDING  
...

I CAN'T  
BLAME  
HIM,  
THOUGH.



I  
REMEM-  
BER HE  
WAS  
CRYING  
TEARS OF  
BLOOD  
...

...HE HADN'T  
BEEN ABLE TO  
STOP HIMSELF  
FROM SINKING HIS  
FANGS INTO THE  
NECK OF THE  
WOMAN HE LOVED  
AND WAS GOING  
TO BE WITH.

...WHO  
SLEPT  
WITH  
SUCH A  
TROUBLED,  
GRUMPY  
LOOK ON  
HER FACE  
AS I DID.

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
BEEN  
TOLD BY  
OTHERS THAT  
THEY'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
ANYONE...



...WELL...  
LOOKS LIKE  
THIS IS  
GOODBYE...

I  
THINK  
I CAN  
FINALLY  
BE AT  
EASE  
NOW.









...S  
SISTER.

HER  
BROTHER AND HIS  
WIFE LEFT  
TOWN  
EARLY THIS  
MORNING  
...

SISTER?  
BUT I  
THOUGHT  
SHE WAS  
DEAD?

APPARENTLY,  
SHE WAS  
ONE OF THE  
HIDDEN...



...IT'S  
PERFECT  
TIMING!



STATISTICS SAY  
A DHAMPIR'S  
COMBAT  
EFFECTIVENESS  
IS LOWERED  
FORTY PERCENT  
WHEN BATTLING  
IN BROAD  
DAYLIGHT.



THE TIME THAT  
WAS NECESSARY  
TO REPORT THE OLD  
WOMAN'S DEATH,  
THE CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATION, THE  
ARRANGEMENTS  
FOR THE  
HEARSE...

NO  
BETTER  
TIME FOR  
THE DEAD  
TO START  
THEIR TRIP  
THAN WHEN  
THE SUN IS  
HIGH ABOVE  
IN THE  
SKY "

...  
DON'T  
YOU  
THINK?



KILL HIM  
TODAY  
FOR  
SURE.

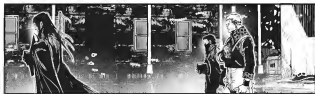
THIS  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE  
HAPPENED  
IF YOU TWO  
HAD TAKEN  
CARE OF  
HIM BACK  
IN THE  
DESERT!

DON'T  
LOOK SO  
DIS-  
PLEASED.



NEITHER  
WILL I.

UNTIL  
THAT  
HUNTER  
IS DEAD,  
YOU WILL  
NOT  
RECEIVE  
PAYMENT.













HE'S SLASHING  
IN A WAY SO AS  
NOT TO COME  
DIRECTLY  
INTO CONTACT  
WITH MY  
DREAMS...?



OH NO -  
I'VE  
AWAKEN-  
ED...!

















IT'S TIME  
FOR YOUR  
CARRIAGE  
TO LEAVE.



BUT I'M  
AFRAID  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
I CAN DO  
TO REPAY  
YOU...

YOU'VE  
GIVEN ME  
MONEY,  
AND EVEN  
BOUGHT  
MY TICKET  
FOR THE  
CARRIAGE  
...



EVEN IF  
HE DOESN'T  
BECOME A  
HUNTER, I'LL  
RAISE HIM TO  
BE JUST LIKE  
THE VAMPIRE  
HUNTER  
I'VE  
KNOWN.

BUT -



YES -  
I  
PROMISE.



I TRUST  
I'LL ONE  
DAY BE ABLE  
TO HEAR  
RUMORS THAT  
YOU ARE  
DOING  
WELL?







NOW,  
THEN -  
IT'S  
TIME.



Vampire Hunter D  
returns...

...to grant  
a dying wish...

...by protecting a  
one-of-a-kind gem...  
...and his life!

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

# Vampire Hunter D

## 7

coming 2012

# AFTERWORD

I'VE DEVELOPED "40S SHOULDER"

6



THIS SECTION CONTAINS INFO THAT I RESEARCHED MYSELF SO THERE MAY BE INACCURACIES, AS WELL AS DIFFERENCES FROM OTHER RESEARCHERS. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION HEREIN IS BASED PURELY ON MY OWN PERSONAL ANECDOTE.

GAME THEORY: 40S/50S CMA

**"40S SHOULDER" (ALSO "50S SHOULDER") = ADHESIVE CAPSULITIS OF SHOULDER OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "FROZEN SHOULDER"**



ADHESIVE CAPSULITIS IS THE TERM FOR SHOULDER PAIN DUE TO SUCH GENERAL CAUSES AS DETERIORATION OF THE MUSCLE FROM AGE OR LACK/EXCESS OF EXERCISE. APPARENTLY, PEOPLE IN THEIR 40S-50S ARE MOST PRONE, BUT THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO GET IT EARLIER IN THEIR 30S, AS WELL AS SOME WHO GET IT LATER IN THEIR 60S. IT REALLY REALLY HURTS (A TOTALLY DIFFERENT KIND OF PAIN THAN, SAY, A PLAIN OLD STIFF SHOULDER). ALSO, RANGE OF ARM MOVEMENT IS GREATLY REDUCED.

## • THE BANZAI •

CAN'T DO IT

ARM WON'T GO UP TO 90 DEGREES. CAN'T GET IT UP TO 180. IT'S BEEN THIS WAY SINCE I WAS 40.

ABOUT 100°

## • FROM SIDES TO ABOVE HEAD •

CAN'T RAISE ARMS



CAN'T HOLD IT LONGER. IT'S BEEN THIS WAY SINCE I WAS 40.

## COMMON SYMPTOMS

OTHER DISCOMFORTS INCLUDE BEING UNABLE TO REMOVE YOUR OWN T-SHIRT BECAUSE OF PUTTING YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD - IF IT'S REALLY BAD - BEING UNABLE TO WASH YOUR OWN BACK AFTER GOING TO THE BATHROOM, ETC. ETC.

IT'S NOT EASY TO TALK ABOUT THIS. IT'S NOT EASY TO TALK ABOUT THIS. IT'S NOT EASY TO TALK ABOUT THIS.

## • CLASPING HANDS BEHIND HEAD •

WON'T REACH

I WAS ABLE TO DO THIS ONE, THOUGH.

## • SPREADING HANDS OUTWARD AT HIPS •

WON'T SPREAD THEM



CAN'T HOLD IT LONGER. IT'S BEEN THIS WAY SINCE I WAS 40.

## • ARMS BEHIND BACK •

WON'T REACH CAN'T DO THINGS LIKE TIE AROUND SLEEVES

ELBOW WON'T MOVE BACK



ONE CAUSE IS SAID TO BE AN IMBALANCE OF THE MUSCLES (THE INNER MUSCLES IN PARTICULAR). WHEN THERE'S PAIN IN ONE AREA, ANOTHER AREA STRAINS ITSELF COMPENSATING TO MINIMIZE MOVEMENT IN THE PAINFUL AREA, THEREBY CAUSING A CHAIN OF MUSCLE IMBALANCES... IN MY CASE, I ALSO INJURED MY UPPER ARM AND ELBOW.

I GOT TENNIS ELBOW.

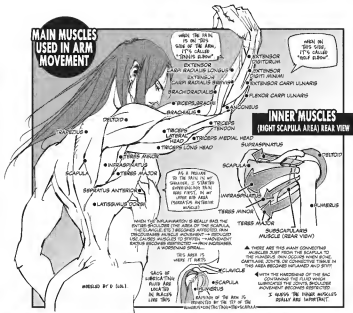
ELBOW WON'T MOVE BACK. IT'S BEEN THIS WAY SINCE I WAS 40.



IT'S A PAIN THAT COULD BE AVOIDED.

BEYOND THE ARMS IS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO GET AN OUCH.

**MAIN MUSCLES  
USED IN ARM  
MOVEMENT**



...ANYWAY, I CAN BABBLE ALL I WANT, BUT THE POINT IS -

# IT REALLY HURTS.

IF I HAD ONLY A FEW WORDS TO DESCRIBE  
WHAT MY AIDA FEELS LIKE, I'D SAY...

IT'S LIKE  
IT'S BEING  
TORN OFF!



FOUR THING I HAVE GIVEN A SHOT BUT IT HASN'T VERY EFFECTIVE.

— 415 —

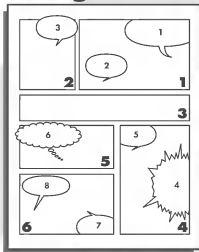






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HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

# Vampire Hunter D

## 6

*A race across treacherous terrain...*

A vital piece of information regarding a "person of great interest" to D sends him galloping across a dangerous desert. He is tailed by Granny Viper, the people finder, who needs to cross the desert herself to bring home one of the Hidden, someone once imprisoned by a Noble.

Doubtful that they can make it through the journey alive, Granny ingratiates themselves to D, hoping that the vampire hunter would protect them from the perils of the land when the time comes. Which is just as well, since "the desert of no return," as the name implies, is no ordinary desert. In fact, no one has ever come out of it alive!

Along the way, D gets on the wrong side of the Bulrow Brothers, two of the roughest, toughest hunters there are and they are looking for some payback.

It's D out on the wild frontier, complete with covered wagon and guns a-blazin'. Or rather, sword a-slashin'.



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